



Chinese Burials and Tombstones

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Ancestor worship has been part of Chinese culture for more than 3000 years.

Chinese burials traditionally occur on the hillside. However, cremation has become the preferred method. Ashes stored in urns are usually kept in columbaria.

GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION

Inscriptions on ancestral tablets, columbarium plaque and tombstones can be a great source of genealogical information. One can usually find the following information:

1. Name of the deceased
2. Name of parents
3. Name of spouse
4. Name of children and grandchildren
5. Birthdate and death date
6. Ancestral village

HEAVENLY STEMS AND EARTHLY BRANCHES 天干地支

The ten Heavenly Stems are a Chinese system of naming the ten days of the week. They first appeared during the Shang dynasty.

The Earthly Branches is a similar cycle of twelve days.

Both were used together to produce a compound cycle of sixty days.

HEAVENLY STEMS 天干

甲 Jia	戊 Wu	壬 Ren
乙 Yi	己 Ji	癸 Gui
丙 Bing	庚 Geng	
丁 Ding	辛 Xin	

EARTHLY BRANCHES 地支

子 Zhi	午 Wu
丑 Chou	未 Wei
寅 Yin	申 Shen
卯 Mao	酉 You
辰 Chen	戌 Wu
巳 Yi	亥 Hai

60 DAYS CYCLE OF HEAVENLY STEMS AND EARTHLY BRANCHES 天干地支

1. 甲子	2. 乙丑	3. 丙寅	4. 丁卯	5. 戊辰	6. 己巳	7. 庚午	8. 辛未	9. 壬申	10. 癸酉	11. 甲戌	12. 乙亥
13. 丙子	14. 丁丑	15. 戊寅	16. 己卯	17. 庚辰	18. 辛巳	19. 壬午	20. 癸未	21. 甲申	22. 乙酉	23. 丙戌	24. 丁亥
25. 戊子	26. 己丑	27. 庚寅	28. 辛卯	29. 壬辰	30. 癸巳	31. 甲午	32. 乙未	33. 丙申	34. 丁酉	35. 戊戌	36. 己亥
37. 庚子	38. 辛丑	39. 壬寅	40. 癸卯	41. 甲辰	42. 乙巳	43. 丙午	44. 丁未	45. 戊申	46. 己酉	47. 庚戌	48. 辛亥
49. 壬子	50. 癸丑	51. 甲寅	52. 乙卯	53. 丙辰	54. 丁巳	55. 戊午	56. 己未	57. 庚申	58. 辛酉	59. 壬戌	60. 癸亥